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Alexander's Hymns No. 4

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

PAUL'S EXPERIENCES AT JERUSALEM.

Nov. 6, 1921. Acts 21:18-23:24.

Golden Text: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; therefore will we not fear.—Ps. 46:1, 2a.

Devotional Reading: Ps. 56:1-6. 12, 13.

Reference Material: 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 4:14, 15.

Primary Topic: How Paul's Nephew Saved His Life.

Lesson Material: Acts 23:12-24.
Memory Verse: The Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer.—Acts 23:11.

Junior Topic: A Boy Tells of a Plot Against Paul.

Lesson Material: Acts 23:10-24.
Memory Verse: Ps. 37:5.

Intermediate and Senior Topic: Paul and His Enemies.

Lesson Material: Acts 20:3, 18, 19; 21:27-36; 23:12-16.

Topic for Young People and Adults: Paul Attacked by a Jewish Mob.

Paul, in accordance with his plan, arrived at Jerusalem and reported to James and the elders, telling them of the wonderful blessings God had bestowed upon his work. They gave thanks to God for what they heard. They tell him that thousands of the Jews had accepted Jesus. But they were evidently still very jealous of the law of Moses. These Jews had heard that Paul in his preaching had opposed the observance of the laws of Moses. This was true, so far as the Gentiles who believed were concerned. He did not require them to follow the ceremonial laws of Moses, though he did not require the Jews to give them all up. This was seen when he had Timothy circumcised, and now he himself was in Jerusalem attending a Jewish feast at which he was fulfilling a vow.

The disciples suggested to him that he could disarm them of their prejudice by going with some other Jews who had taken vows and performing the ceremonies connected with the carrying out of the vows.

This plan might have satisfied the Christian Jews, had it been carried to completion. But there were many of the other Jews who were on the lookout for an opportunity to destroy a man who had won so many of their fellow-Jews to the new faith. They had seen Paul in the city with a man who was not a Jew. When they saw Paul in the temple with four men, whom they did not know, they jumped to the conclusion that they also were Greeks.

The purification ceremonies required seven days. When they were nearly completed some Jews from the province of Asia, where Paul had done so much preaching, recognized him and immediately aroused the people against him. Soon a great mob had been formed, which set upon Paul.

Such an uproar was caused that the commander of the Roman forces, which were stationed in the tower of Antonia, which stood in the corner of the temple area, came to the rescue of Paul. Supposing that he was guilty of some crime, he had Paul bound with two chains and was having him carried into the tower. As they were ascending the steps Paul asked permission to speak to the people. Lysias, the chief captain, was surprised to know that Paul could speak Greek, having jumped to the conclusion that he was an Egyptian who had a short time before raised an insurrection against the Roman government in that country.

Paul told who he was and was given permission to speak. Standing on the stairs, he made an address to the people in the common form of Hebrew which they were accustomed to use. He told them something of his early history, then of his conversion, and of his commission to preach in Jerusalem, but said that God had sent him to preach to the Gentiles. This enraged them so that they would hear him no longer, but raised a great uproar, demanding that he be put to death.

Lysias had him carried into the tower, and according to the strange custom of the day, ordered him to

The Home Mission Situation

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HOME MISSIONS FACES THE MOST ACUTE FINANCIAL
CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF ITS WORK

THESE ARE THE FACTS:

Home Missions was apportioned \$720,000 in the Presbyterian Progressive Program for the year 1921-22 and the Committee appropriated \$715,154 for its many-sided work.

For the six months ending September 30th the receipts from churches, missionary societies and Sunday Schools were \$5,087.00 less than for the corresponding period last year, and the Committee had borrowed \$68,000 to meet pressing obligations.

At the September meeting of the Committee, when applications for new and promising undertakings totaling more than \$200,000 had been declined, a resolution was adopted that no application for any new work, no matter how urgent or inviting, could be considered until the obligations already assumed had been met.

If Funds Are Not Available, the Work Must Stop!

November is the month assigned Assembly's Home Missions for offerings in the churches that did not make the Every Member Canvass in March.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HOME MISSIONS

Presbyterian Church in the United States

1522 Hurt Building,

Atlanta, Ga.

N. B.—In the Progressive Program the General Assembly has assigned Assembly's Home Missions 16 per cent of the Church's total benevolent contributions, or 27 per cent of the gifts to the Assembly causes.